

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

17 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. General Donald V. Bennett
Director
Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: American Prisoners of War in Viet Cong
Inter-Region 5

1. The attached report provides information on several U.S. military personnel captured by the Viet Cong during the period 1962-1968. The information was derived from [redacted]

[redacted] This report is also of interest because it recounts, we believe for the first time, what purports to be enemy policy on the burial of American dead.

2. We are giving this report limited distribution in the field. In Washington, copies are being sent only to you and the recipients listed below.

Attachment
CS 317/09055/71

cc: Admiral Epes
Admiral Rectanus
Major General Triantafellu
Major General Davidson
Brigadier General Pursley

Colonel Quillian
Captain Harris
Mr. Sieverts
Mr. Negroponte

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date JUN 20 1970

RC: (13) G. Aikwood

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

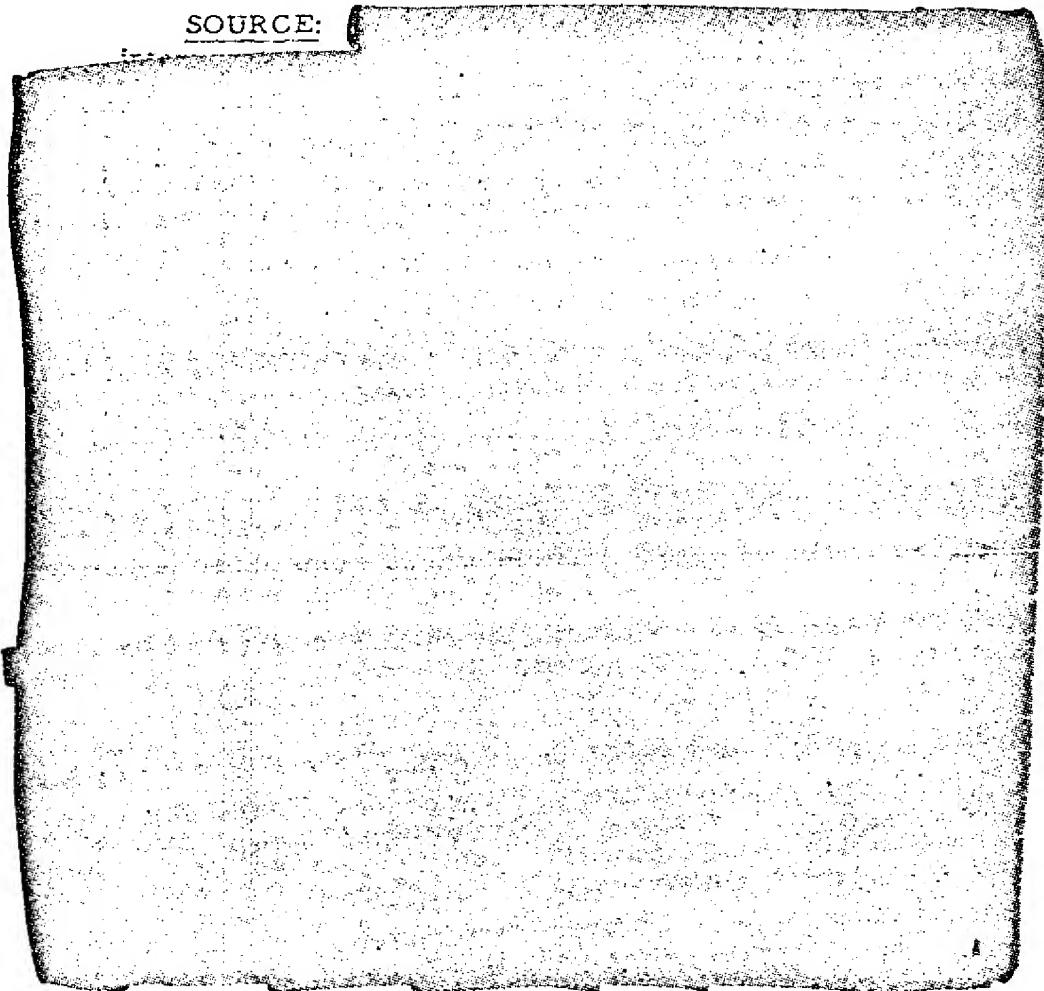
US 5:1/09055/71

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: American Prisoners of War in Viet Cong Inter-Region 5

SOURCE:



1. Sometime between May and September 1962, two Americans were captured by a sapper unit of the Viet Cong (VC) Quang Nam province unit in Lam Thanh hamlet, Hoa Luong village, Hao Vang district, and turned over to the Military Proselyting Section of Quang Nam province. As deputy chief of the section in charge of prisoners of war, Major Le Can decided to release the prisoners because there was no adequate detention camp nearby and to take them to the Military Proselyting Section of Military Inter-Region 5 would take between two and three months. *

2. One of the prisoners released was called Brown and held the rank of either private first class or sergeant; he was an advisor to the GVN Regional Forces Company in Hao Vang district. He was between 19 and 26 years of age, about 1.80 meters tall, and weighed about 75 kilograms; he had grey eyes, blond hair, a large forehead, straight nose and pale complexion. The other prisoner was called Kim (phonetic), and held the same rank and position as the other prisoner. He was about the same age as Brown and was about 1.90 meters tall and weighed about 85 kilograms. He also had blond hair, grey eyes, a straight nose but had a tanned complexion. **

3. In June 1966, [redacted] a report submitted by the Kontum Province Military Proselyting Section concerning the capture of an American medical officer who held the rank of captain. *** The prisoner

[redacted] Comment: Viet Cong Military Inter-Region 5 included Government of Vietnam (GVN) Quang Nam, Quang Tin, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Bon, Kontum and Dar Lac provinces.

**Headquarters Comment: This information may refer to two U.S. personnel, E-4 Francis Quinn and E-5 George Edward Groom, who are listed by the Defense Intelligence Agency publication "Combined List of U.S. Personnel PW/MIA" as having been captured on 8 April 1962 and having subsequently escaped.

*** [redacted] Comment: This prisoner may be identical with Captain Floyd Kushner, who was reported to be in Quang Ngai province in December 1970 and was a captain and a medical doctor. [redacted]

was turned over to the Military Proselyting Section of Military Inter-Region 5 which put him into a detention camp where he later contracted dysentary and died; he was buried in Tra Mi district, Quang Nam province, but the exact location was not known. He was about 40 years old.

4. In February 1968,

that an American prisoner of war had been released in 1966 but had refused to return to his unit; the American instead had volunteered to work as a propaganda cadre for the Military Proselyting Section of Military Inter-Region 5. [redacted] not certain but thought the name of the prisoner was Bobby. According to [redacted] the prisoner was a private first class; after he defected, he used a loudspeaker to broadcast Viet Cong propaganda to the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment, located in the Bo Bo military camp, Dien Tien village, Dien Ban district.

5. Prior to 1964, there was no clear policy on the disposal of the bodies of dead American prisoners. Usually, they were buried by their captors where they died. In 1964, the Central Office for South Vietnam issued a directive, number not known, which officially ordered the prisoners buried where they died; the capturing units, however, were instructed to prepare a sketch of the exact location of the grave. This sketch plus all identity papers and personal belongings of the prisoners were sent to the next higher unit, which would then forward them to the Military Proselyting Section of Military Inter-Region 5. As of January 1969, the Military Proselyting Section consisted of Colonel (FNU) Tri, Chief of the Section and also in charge of penetration activities; Lieutenant Colonel (FNU) Thai, Deputy Chief of the Section and also in charge of propaganda activities; Major (FNU) Sau, penetration cadre; Major Le Can, penetration cadre; Major (FNU) Key, penetration cadre; and Major (FNU) Ninh, administrative cadre.

* [redacted] Comment: This prisoner may be identical with the one described in CS-311/06455-71, in CS-311/03376-70 and in CS-311/01550-71. He may be Robert Garwood, a Marine captured by the VC in 1965 who is reported to have defected in May 1967.